

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01
H-01 /033 W

-----170634Z 101845 /12

R 161910Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2263
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4955

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF BR AR US
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA REFUGEES IN BRAZIL

REF: (A) STATE 130758 (B) BRASILIA 4122

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AMCONGEN RIO DE JANEIRO.

2. BEGIN MESSAGE: CONGEN POLOFF MET JUNE 14 WITH UNHCR TDY REPRESENTATIVE PRIM FOR UPDATING ON ARGENTINE POLITICAL REFUGEE PROBLEM IN BRAZIL AND TO TRANSMIT DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS (REFTEL A) ON RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR PRIM TO FOLLOW IN INTERNATIONALIZING THIS PROBLEM.

3. PRIM STATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD US VIEWS AND RECONIZED NORMAL PROCEDURES FOLLOWED IN SUCH MATTERS, BUT THAT GOB HAD SPECIALLY REQUESTED THAT UNHCR NOT RPT NOT TREAT ARGENTINE REFUGEES IN USUAL MANNER. RATHER GOB ASKED THAT UNHCR BILATERALLY APPROACH EMBASSIES IN BRASILIA TO REQUEST RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES AND THAT UNHCR SHOULD AVOID ANY
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AND ALL PUBLICITY. PRIM SAID THAT TO DATE POSITIVE RESPONSES HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO HIS DEMARCHES FROM CANADA, MEXICO, AND VENEZUELA. CONGEN OFF ASKED PRIM NEVERTHELESS TO CONVEY DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS TO GENEVA WHICH HE PROMISED TO DO.

4. PRIM SAID THAT UNHCR DIRECTOR FOR PROTECTION YAEGER (PNU), EVIDENTLY THIRD UNHCR HEERARCHY, WOULD VISIT

BRASILIA WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 20 AT WHICH TIME YAEGER WOULD MEET WITH FOREIGN AND JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH ARGENTINE PROBLEM. ADDITIONALLY, YAEGER PLANS TO DISCUSS STATUS OF UNCHR ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL INDICATING THAT ARGENTINE PROBLEM LIKELY TO BE SLOW IN RESOLUTION, DESPITE BRAZILIAN HOPES FOR QUICK RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES. PRIM MENTIONED THAT UNHCR HAD ALREADY MADE TWO VERBAL REQUESTS TO BRASILIA TO OPEN RIO OFFICE, BUT THAT GOB NOW HAD ASKED FOR WRITTEN REQUEST. WRITTEN REQUEST WOULD PROBABLY POINT OUT SERVICE UNHCR IS PROVIDING GOB BY RIDDING BRAZIL OF POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING PROBLEM.

5. PRIM ALSO INDICATED THAT CURRENT NUMBER OF ARGENTINE REFUGEES TOTALS ABOUT 150 (COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL B, PRIM HAD EARLIER GIVEN ESTIMATE OF 175 PERSONS) IN APPROXIMATELY 80 TO 90 FAMILY GROUPINGS. HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD INTERVIEWED ABOUT 10 PERSONS IN RECENT DAYS IN EITHER RIO OR SAO PAULO AND HE EXPECTED MORE ARGENTINES TO SEEK HIMOUT IN NEAR FUTURE. END MESSAGE.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: COMMENTS BY UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE PRIM CONCERN THAT ARGENTINE REFUGEE PROBLEM HERE BE ADDRESSED IN AS LOW KEY MANNER AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF GOB COOPERATION BECOMING AN ISSUE WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, OR PERHAPS EVEN WITH CERTAIN HARD-LINE ELEMENTS IN BRAZIL ITSELF. WITH THIS IN VIEW, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT AFTER REASONABLE INTERVAL, USMISSION GENEVA CONSULT UNHCR HEADQUARTERS TO ESTABLISH LIAISON ON THE PROBLEM AT THAT LEVEL, AND TO DETERMINE CONFIDENTIAL

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WHETHER INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO PRIM'S BILATERAL APPROACHES, AS REPORTED TO HIS HEADQUARTERS, WOULD JUSTIFY US PARTICIPATION IN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM BASED UPON A DIRECT AND PRIVATE UNHCR REQUEST, IN GENEVA RATHER THAN A PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL APPEAL. END COMMENT.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL04955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770216-0620
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770652/aaaabsyh.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c40e077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 130758, 77 BRASILIA 4122
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2134298
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARGENTINA REFUGEES IN BRAZIL
TAGS: SREF, BR, AR, US, UNHRC
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c40e077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009